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# FROM MEAUX TO COMPIEGNE

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DANIEL HEEFNER

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THE BURIAL PLACES  
OF  
MERCERSBURG'S SONS  
FROM MEAUX TO COMPIEGNE



An Informal Report with Impressions of a Visit to the Resting Places of Mercersburg's and Franklin County's (Pa.) World War Heroes, made in September 1930, by Daniel Heefner, Secretary of The Mercersburg Alumni Association.

Battlefield views are enlargments of moving picture films.

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Heefner, Daniel.

The burial places of  
Mercersburg's sons, from  
Meaux to Compiègne

*Memorizing a cadence*

MEMORIZING A  
CADCENSE



JOEL T. BOONE, '09  
CAPTAIN, MEDICAL CORPS  
UNITED STATES NAVY

243626





*The following valuable paper by our Alumni Secretary has been heard with great favor by the Avon Club of Mercersburg and the Kittochlinny Historical Society of Franklin County. It has also been published in full in two Franklin County newspapers, as well as in The Mercersburg Academy Alumni Quarterly.*

*Mr. Heefner's own participation in the war, his ever-increasing sympathetic interest in Mercersburg alumni, the spirit of his visit to the battlefields of Europe inspired by the motive of seeking memorials of their service and especially of their giving "the last full measure of devotion," all combine to render this article a historically vital and precious document. Anything which renders vivid and clear to us of Mercersburg the heroism and valor of our brothers becomes a permanent record of the school most valuable for future reference both to the School and its friends.*

—BOYD EDWARDS



The Mercersburg Academy should be  
proud of the services of its men  
in the world war

1931.

John J. Pershing

May I also extend to the Academy my heartiest congratulations on its splendid record. It is indeed one to be proud of."

—General John J. Pershing.

+ + +

"I do not know of any finer service that could be rendered than the one you are rendering in preserving the history of the Mercersburg men who served in the World War."

—The Hon. Josephus Daniels,  
Secretary of the Navy during the World War.

+ + +

"If Mercersburg sent 1700 men to the war she made a fine record. I am glad to know there is such a splendid institution and wish there were more."

—Major-General Joseph E. Kuhn,  
Commander of the 79th Division.



## FOREWORD

"Lest we forget"

*The author has performed a generous and commendable service to Mercersburg Academy in visiting, at his own expense, the battlefield cemeteries of France, that he might bring back to us a true picture of those youths of Mercersburg who gave their all for country and a better world wherein man may dwell.*

*Our hearts are thrilled with inexpressible pride that sons of Mercersburg achieved such an unexcelled record when America went forth to war. Seventeen hundred Mercersburg boys served with the colors; her sons fought in forty-nine American Divisions overseas and in the ranks of four Divisions on the American continent and as sailors on the high seas; fifty-six gave their lives while wearing the uniform of their country; ninety-three were decorated or cited in orders; three received the highest and fourteen the second highest medals for acts of valor in the face of the enemy; thirty-five other medals were conferred for heroic or distinguished services. This record, as far as can be ascertained, is relatively an unmatched one by any school or college. It is particularly significant, for Mercersburg Academy is in no sense a military institution.*

*To Mr. Heefner, may I express the gratitude of a proud alumni for this assembled record. He has once more demonstrated his loyalty and devotion to the school of his adoption.*

*Mercersburg boys went forth to battle with that distinctive spirit inculcated at Mercersburg Academy in their student days. That is why posterity will glory in our youthful brothers who cheerfully gave all for God and country.*

*I deplore war. My life is consecrated for the preservation of peace, but we cannot sanely review history without visible emphasis that many of the greatest characters have been richly ennobled in war. In suffering the sacrifice for one's fellowman as found on the field of battle, where men are stripped of the artificities of life, have these great personages been created. They have contributed to man's betterment, for they know human nature unadorned.*

*Men who give their all for country do not die. Their efforts, their achievements, their sacrifices would have been in vain if war should ever be our portion. There is the noble heritage:*

*"To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die."*

JOEL T. BOONE,  
Captain Medical Corps, U. S. Navy,  
President, Mercersburg Alumni Association.

## TO OUR OWN BOYS WHO FELL IN FRANCE

WRITTEN IN 1918

Strong soldiers of the sky,  
We feel you marching by.  
Through you the world's wide life is glorified.  
We know for whom you gave  
Glad youth unto the grave;  
We know it was for us you fought and died.

When bright-lipped bugles sang,  
Forth into line you sprang  
With ardent strength to meet the foe's advance,—  
With song and happy laugh—  
And now your epitaph  
Are those few mighty words, "They fell in France."

Great hearts, who now are gone,  
Warriors, whose wars are done,—  
A faithful vigil over you we keep.  
Our love's remembering you  
Is lasting tribute true,—  
Good soldiers, sleeping now your battle-sleep.

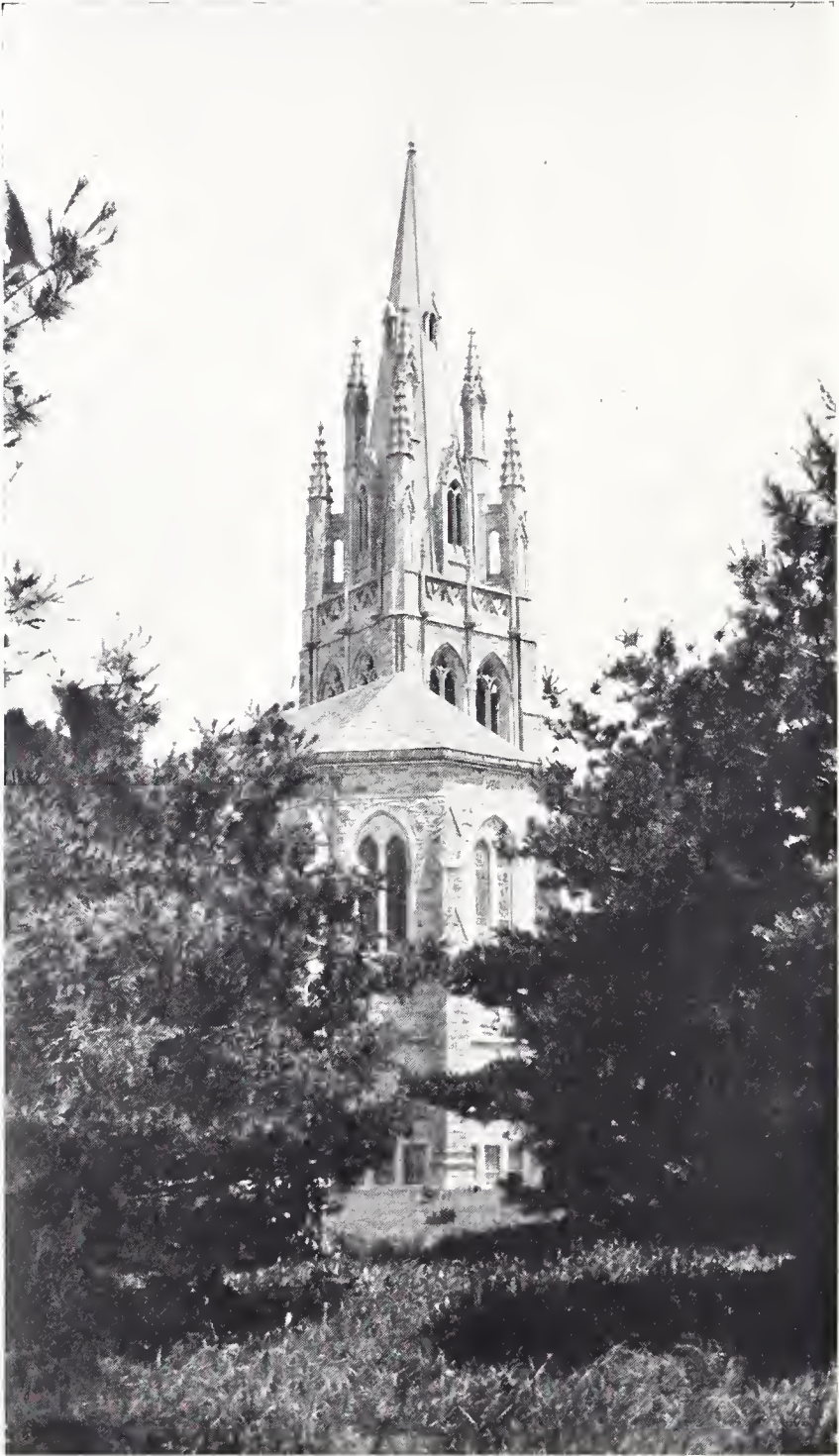
Somewhere your legions bright,  
In everlasting light,  
Are by the Captain of All Souls reviewed,  
Your radiant ranks arrayed  
Where splendors never fade,  
In powers of eternal life renewed.

Though grand your victory  
That set the chained earth free,  
Your sacrifice a nobler triumph gives;  
By you are hearts made pure,  
And faith established sure;  
And by your spirit Honor's spirit lives.

The dreadful path you trod  
Led upward unto God;  
And you shall lead us in the days to be.  
Ever you march again,  
O tall, resplendent Slain!  
And following you shall be fidelity.

Your courage high survives  
In each true heart that strives;  
Who dies a hero's death retells your story.  
Where flags of Freedom wave,  
You'll always lead the Brave;  
And where you are shall be the home of glory.

—ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE.



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

THE MERCERSBURG CHAPEL  
CONTAINS MANY MEMORIALS TO SONS OF MERCERSBURG

# The Burial Places of Mercersburg's Sons From Meaux To Compiègne

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With Relation to Mercersburg Alumni and Franklin  
County, Pennsylvania, Service Men

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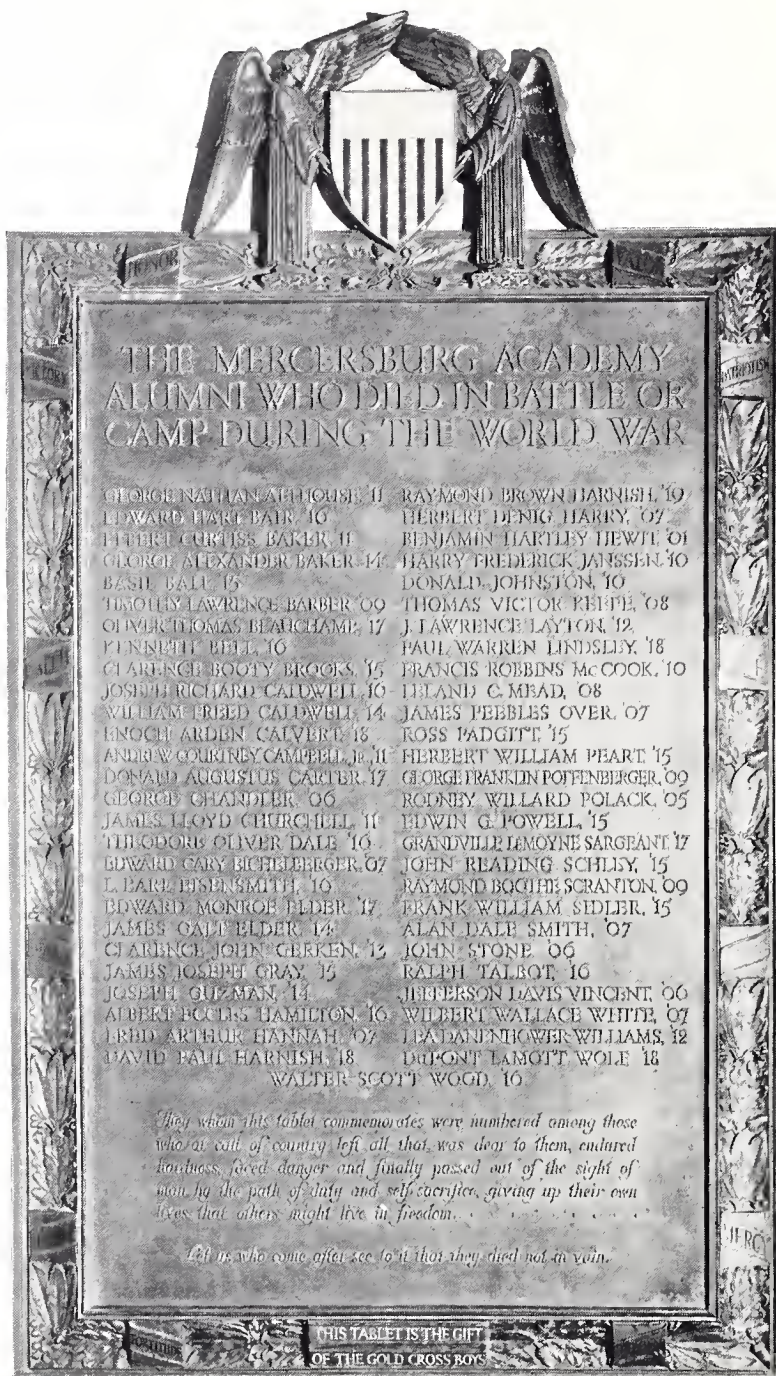
By DANIEL HEEFNER

*"Where an American lies, there is America."*

When I stood on the battlefields of France, and especially when I visited the cemetery at Romagne, where the largest group of our dead are buried, my mind went back to the very early days of America's activity in the war. I thought of the training camps in the states; the bewilderment of many a fellow as he reached camp knowing nothing about army life; the strenuous, but many times incomplete, training one received; the silent and mysterious method of moving from camp to transport; the transport carrying young men—the nation's best—across the sea; the destroyers arriving to escort the transports to their destination; possibly a hike from Liverpool to Southampton; the crossing of the English Channel in the dark of night; the landing in the early morning hours at one of the ports of France; the unpleasant training days back of the lines, each man anxiously awaiting the orders to go forward into real action; the suffering most of the men at the front endured; and finally, I realized the result of an unnecessary conflict lying before me.

After some thought I recalled the manner in which many of those men had been taken into the Army. As most of us know, the Selective Draft Law brought into the service what was known as the National Army. Some few people at that time thought of those who went into that army as being reluctant to go—an army of "hangers-back." When a democratic country such as ours, through its own choosing, decides to raise an army by conscription, it is the entire nation, young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak, which volunteers. All America had enlisted it seemed and it was simply a question of selecting for service overseas the men best fitted to go. Many men in my knowledge made every effort to enlist, but were not accepted. After the Selective Draft Law became effective, they were taken so suddenly that they had little time to prepare for departure. One





BRONZE TABLET IN NARTHEX OF CHAPEL TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
FIFTY-SIX MERCERSBURG ALUMNI WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE



who criticised men for being drafted and not enlisting, it seems to me, had no vision of democracy.

Then came to mind the little group of men who made up the first contingent of the American Expeditionary Forces and their arrival in a foreign land. On June 8, 1917, General Pershing and his staff set foot on English soil. Late that next afternoon they were welcomed at the gates of Paris by such a "moving, spontaneous, tumultuous greeting" from the people of the city as they could never forget. They had set sail from New York on May 28, 1917, with as much secrecy as an excited and curious country could permit.

They crossed the sea to prepare the way, the ports, the camps, the bases, the system for the hundreds of thousands of troops that were to follow them within a year. It was exactly one year to the day from that time that American soldiers made their first attack at the Battle of Cantigny. The General and most of his staff were, according to the official newspaper of the A. E. F., *The Stars and Stripes*, "uncomfortable, but recognizable, in civilian clothes." When a few pieces of baggage arrived at the pier of the *Baltic* marked "With the American Expeditionary Forces, care of General Pershing," faint suspicions arose, but the majority of the American people did not know that the Commander-in-Chief had sailed until the cables brought back from England the news of his safe arrival.

The vanguard was composed of General Pershing, twenty-four field officers, thirty line officers, fifty-six clerks, four interpreters and sixty-seven enlisted men,—182 in all. Along with this group were also Major H. H. Young and three other members of a special commission and some newspaper correspondents.

Throughout the entire trip, until the third destroyer had come to escort the *Baltic*, the American soldiers aboard wore civilian suits. The officers of the White Star Line had warned against wearing uniforms, saying that the presence of a stray officer in uniform among passengers of torpedoed liners had satisfied the U-boat marauders as an excuse to shell the life-boats. The *Baltic* had just sailed through the danger zone when word came through the air that 5,000,000 young Americans had "discountenanced all prophets of riot and calamity" by quietly and soberly enrolling under the Selective Draft.

The Pershing party arrived at Liverpool on the morning of June 8 and was greeted by high dignitaries of the port. A special train carried the whole party to London, with the Commander-in-Chief made comfortable in the royal private car. They were met by Sir John French, Vice-Admiral Sims and Ambassador Page, and it has been recorded that General Pershing did not go on his way until he had shaken the hand of the engineer who had brought him to London. The General and his staff were quartered

at the Savoy Hotel, whose windows look out on the embankment of the Thames. The enlisted men were sent to the Tower of London, for the "weather-beaten, fabled structure where the little princes were murdered and where Anne Boleyn was beheaded," became the barracks for the American doughboys. On June 9, General Pershing called upon King George at Buckingham Palace.

Felicitations to the American General were extended, similar to the note prepared by King George and placed in the hands of every American soldier who landed on English soil before crossing



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

#### BELLEAU WOOD IN 1930

into France. A copy of this note, the original of which I have retained, follows:

Soldiers of the United States, the people of the British Isles welcome you on your way to take your stand beside the Armies of many Nations now fighting in the Old World the great battle of human freedom. The Allies will gain new heart and spirit in your company. I wish I could shake the hand of each of you and bid you God-speed on your mission.

As General Pershing stepped from the train in Paris, General Joffre came forward to greet him and the Garde Republicaine Band broke into "The Star Spangled Banner." The reception in Paris was tremendous.

The next morning in the North River, on the other side, a line of transports bearing the first American contingents were preparing to set sail for France.

It might be said that the Pershing contingent was the vanguard of the fighting forces of the A. E. F., but even before he had gone, members of the Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps had crossed with units for service in the hospitals, and by the time the American Commander-in-Chief had arrived in Europe, members of the Medical Officers Reserve Corps had already been serving in the British line. They were the first in France, having arrived on May 25, 1917, and organized as Base Hospital No. 4. On June 14, 1917, eighteen transports carrying 15,000 soldiers weighed anchor—the first large group of soldiers to leave for service abroad.

From that day to November 11, 1918, official records show that 2,057,907 men were sent over, excluding those in the navy, only 758 of whom were lost by enemy attack in transportation—a remarkable achievement. In the month of July 1918 alone, 306,000 men were sent to Europe. Not one eastbound soldier in care of American naval vessels lost his life by submarine attack and not one vessel of the transport service was lost on the eastward voyage, although three ships returning to the United States were sunk out of five torpedoed. Of these two millions and more men, America lost 78,734 in service abroad, including the 758 lost in transportation.

A Mercersburg man, Raymond Fendrick, '07, served on the staff of the official newspaper, *The Stars and Stripes*, which I mentioned before. This paper was a great inspiration to all soldiers overseas, and at its height reached a circulation of 526,000. It was such poetry as this, if it can be called poetry, which kept everyone in good humor, especially on the day of its issue:

### HAVE YOU

Have you ever sat in your hole,  
With only a few logs and some dirt over you,  
And heard the screech of one of Jerry's 77's—  
And heard that screech change to a moan—  
And heard that moan grow louder—  
And know that it was going to fall near you—  
And look out and see it land—  
Right at the entrance of your hole—  
And not explode?  
No?  
Then you have something to live for!

This same paper also told of some heroic deeds, such as that of Private First Class Albert E. Scott, thought to be the youngest

man in the A. E. F., aged 16 years at the time of his death. Scotty, affectionately so-called, was the subject of part of the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign.

Quoting from some of the campaign material: "Scotty was only fifteen when war came to America but he held up his right hand, a husky, fair-haired youngster from Brookline, Mass. He was so young he never did have a chance to use that shiny razor of his and they had to appoint the supply sergeant as his guardian to see that he wrote home regularly. He spent his sixteenth birthday in the training area of France. He knew later the cold mud of the Lorraine trenches. At Seicheprey his company found that nothing could rattle him and that he did not know fear. But his greatest day was his last. It was one afternoon in that historic July week when his regiment chased the Germans from the Marne to the Ourcq and there fell to Scotty the chance to lie down with his beloved gun at the head of a leafy, woodland path and see that not a German crossed it alive. Not one did, though thirty died in trying before a sniper's bullet found Scotty's heart. His comrades later said: 'He was a good kid and he died on his gun.' " This paper carried great stories to the American doughboy along with much inspiration, and our School and County must be congratulated on having had Raymond Fendrick, now an international writer, on its staff.

As I stood among the crosses in one of the larger cemeteries holding American dead, I remembered a questionnaire which was distributed among the soldiers at the front by a self-appointed investigator. It asked: "What are the four deadly sins of the soldier?" Of course the originator of this question had expected to receive unprintable answers. The tabulation of these sins required considerable time, but I like to think that each man lying there answered what proved to be the result of the questionnaire.

In the order of importance of the men, the following is the answer: "*Cowardice, Selfishness, Stinginess, Bragging,*" a fine code of ethics for anyone.

The first blow made by any Americans came in the early hours of Thursday, September 12, 1918, at the drive of St. Mihiel, which had been held by the Germans over a period of four years. The result of this attack was more successful than ever could have been hoped for. Supported by the French Colonials, the First Army closed on the old, heavily entrenched salient held by the Germans after the First Battle of the Marne and in less than two days obliterated that salient from the fast changing German war map. There were captured on this first attack 15,000 prisoners, 200 guns, hundreds of machine guns, millions of dollars worth of locomotives, railway supplies, clothing, food, and rifles. The area of this salient was approximately 150 square miles, almost half the



size of the Chateau-Thierry salient, where the first real great test of the Yanks and Boche took place.

Shortly after this battle I was privileged to go into the St. Mihiel area and I was amazed to see the preparations made by the Germans, who had occupied that section over a period of four years. The dugouts were enormous in size and in many cases were furnished as one would furnish a home. There were the kitchens, on the stoves of which vegetables were left in the rapid rush to evacuate; the cobblers left their shoes on the lasts; tubs were left containing clothes in soapy water; and on pianos in what was known as their living-room, were found sheets of music.

The dugouts were not blown up but the town itself was entirely destroyed. I visited on that day the German cemetery, which



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

#### THE THIRD AMERICAN DIVISION MONUMENT AT CHATEAU-THIERRY

was of much interest, for it indicated the Germans' assurance that this was to be their territory permanently. It was carefully laid out and much labor and real artistic skill were expended upon several hundred stone monuments that marked the graves of German soldiers lost there.

Immediately following the Armistice, the members of the A. E. F. gathered together the bodies of the more than 78,000 dead.

From frozen dugouts, from old ruins, from those hastily improvised and sunken openings in the ground that were shell holes and battle graves, from wheat fields and river banks and meadows, from all of the thousands of places of isolation and great loneliness, the dead were carefully and tenderly taken by more than 4,000 soldiers, which composed the Graves Registration Service, to plots of ground selected as temporary cemeteries. There was nothing demonstrative in this work, this digging up of old graves, many times the workers being compelled to use gas masks. There was nothing alluring or inspiring in searching bodies for some mark of identification, carrying the remains to the nearest cemetery, burying, marking and reporting them. The graves were marked off in regular plots of 208 each and graded and marked with crosses. Gravel paths were laid out, and the job was completed insofar as the army was concerned.

The following is taken from *The Stars and Stripes* of February 28, 1919:

It is not easy to speak of the dead in terms of cards and maps. And yet, at the central office of the Graves Registration Service at Tours, the question of our dead is carefully and patiently being worked out to answer with just these things, thousands of them. There are maps that show every grave to the exact inch in the large assembly of cemeteries far back of the lines, and there are cards of record to which, at a moment's notice, a clerk can turn and give the whole history of the grave.

The whole of France had been divided into three advance and nine other areas, including the base and intermediate sections and the District of Paris. These areas were cut into numbered blocks of six kilometers square and again subdivided into lots a kilometer square. Units from the Graves Registration Service covered every square kilometer of the terrain, thoroughly collaborating with old records in confirming and establishing graves, discovering in all kinds of out-of-the-way places new graves never reported, searching in every conceivable place for lost dead, and finally identifying and bringing together in the smaller or larger central resting places all the scattered members of this legion of dead. Every effort was made to recover all the bodies and try to identify each one.

The bodies were assembled in fifty-six cemeteries and were later collected into eight, the largest of which is the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. Approximately 25,000 bodies had been placed in this cemetery but at the present time 14,117 bodies remain there, the more than 10,000 having been returned to the United States.

I visited the Aisne-Marne Cemetery at Belleau containing over 2,200 graves in which one Mercersburg alumnus is buried; the

Meuse-Argonne Cemetery already mentioned containing more than 14,000 graves in which nine Mercersburg alumni are buried; the Oise-Aisne Cemetery, 110 kilometers from Paris, containing a few less than 6,000 graves, in which two Mercersburg alumni are buried; the Suresnes Cemetery, about 12 kilometers from Paris, containing 1,500 graves in which one Mercersburg alumnus is buried; the St. Mihiel Cemetery at Thiaucourt containing more than 4,100 graves in which seven Mercersburg alumni are buried. I also visited the Somme Cemetery at Bony containing 1,850 graves in which no Mercersburg alumnus is buried. By request of relatives, fifteen bodies of Mercersburg alumni were returned from overseas and twenty-one of the fifty-six who gave their lives died in service either by disease or accident in camps.



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

#### THE FORT AT VERDUN, WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD MANY WARS

The purpose of this paper is not to convey the story of the war, especially since history is fast being recorded officially and the splendid work done by all of the American Expeditionary Forces is rapidly coming to us in permanent and accurate form.

It is a difficult task to bring together in a limited time the story of such an army of men as those from The Mercersburg

Academy and Franklin County who served their country during the war. Almost every combat division of the American Expeditionary Forces contained representatives from our very historical County and School. While the 28th, 42d, 79th, and 80th Divisions contained probably more Pennsylvanians and more Franklin Counts than any other divisions, representatives from this district were found in considerable number in other divisions. The 29th, which was made up of more Maryland men than men from any other state, had representatives from this County.

As a member of a family in whose possession there are four honorable discharges from the Army, I have felt a keen interest in the service of those men whose sacrifices cannot be measured. During the past summer it was my privilege to visit the battlefields and cemeteries of France. The trip was made especially to secure all available data possible concerning the work of the divisions to which Mercersburg Academy alumni were attached. This trip also was made to secure first-hand information on the cemeteries and monuments, especially in connection with Mercersburg men, more than 1,700 of whom served during those hectic days. I have therefore prepared this paper in a very personal and informal way and have treated the subject with all respect to those who served and to those who made the supreme sacrifice.

With deep gratitude and honor from their Alma Mater, I give the names of the alumni of Mercersburg whose bodies lie in France with their locations in various cemeteries:

ELBERT CURTISS BAKER, '11     -     -     -     1st Lt., 371st Inf.  
Grave 35, Row 35, Block B, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

BASIL BALL, '15     -     -     -     -     Med. Det., 9th M. C. Bn.  
Grave 11, Row 18, Block B, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

TIMOTHY LAWRENCE BARBER, '09, Captain, U. S. Medical  
Corps Surgeon, 2nd Bn. 313th Regiment  
Grave 4, Row 32, Block F, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

OLIVER THOMAS BEAUCHAMP, '17, 1st Lt., 27th U. S. Aero  
Squadron  
Grave 37, Row 7, Block A, Oise-Aisne American  
Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, Aisne, France.

HARRY BOORN, '15     -     199th Battalion, Irish Canadian Rangers  
Buried in the church yard at Biscarrose, France.



ANDREW COURTNEY CAMPBELL, JR., '11, Sgt. Pilot, Lafayette  
Escadrille  
Buried under the Lafayette Escadrille Monument.

GEORGE CHANDLER, '06 - - - 2nd Lt., Balloon Service  
Grave 5, Row 5, Block B, Suresnes American Cemetery,  
Suresnes, Seine, France.

THEODORE OLIVER DALE, '16, Pvt., Co. F, 103rd Inf., 28th Div.  
Grave 1, Row 18, Block C, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

BENJAMIN HARTLEY HEWIT, '01, Captain, Co. F., 316th Inf.,  
79th Div.  
Grave 21, Row 33, Block A, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

DONALD JOHNSTON, '10 - - - 1st Lt., 104th Aero Squadron  
Grave 19, Row 24, Block B, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

J. LAWRENCE LAYTON, '12 - - 1st Lt., F. R., Escadrille 77  
Grave 87, Row 4, Block A, Aisne-Marne American  
Cemetery, Belleau, Aisne, France.

PAUL WARREN LINDSLEY, '18, 1st Lt., U. S. Air Force 3rd  
Aviation Instruction Center, France  
Grave 26, Row 15, Block A, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

FRANCIS ROBBINS MCCOOK, '10, Captain, Co. B, 134th M. G. Bn.  
Grave 27, Row 38, Block B, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

LELAND C. MEAD, '08 - - - Medical Det., 361st Inf., 91st Div.  
Grave 3, Row 2, Block C, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

JAMES PEEBLES OVER, '07 - - - 1st Lt., Co. K, 47th Inf.  
Grave 6, Row 7, Block A, Oise-Aisne American  
Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, Aisne, France.

HERBERT WILLIAM PEART, '15 - - 1st Lt., Co. M, 103rd Inf.  
Grave 23, Row 45, Block B, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

RAYMOND BOOTHE SCRANTON, '09 - - - Pvt., Co. B, 39th Engrs.  
Grave 31, Row 19, Block C, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.



1891

ANDREW COURTNEY CAMPBELL, JR.  
MERCERSBURG, 1911  
PORTRAIT BY LEOPOLD SEYFFERT

1917

FRANK WILLIAM SIDLER, '15 - 1st Lt., U. S. Air Force  
Grave 35, Row 11, Block D, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

JOHN STONE, '06 - - - 1st Lt., U. S. Aviation Corps  
Grave 26, Row 17, Block A, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

JEFFERSON DAVIS VINCENT, '06 - - - Lt., U. S. Army  
Grave 27, Row 7, Block A, St. Mihiel American  
Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

WILBERT WALLACE WHITE, JR., '07, 2nd Lt., 147 Aero Squad,  
U. S. Air Service  
Grave 17, Row 37, Block F, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

DUPONT LAMOTT WOLF, '18, Cpl., 117th Trench Mortar Bat-  
tery, 42nd Div.  
Grave 11, Row 3, Block C, Meuse-Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

The bodies of the following who made the supreme sacrifice were  
returned to the United States for re-interment:

GEORGE NATHAN ALTHOUSE, '11 - 1st Lt., Co. H, 315th Inf.

EDWARD HART BAIR, JR., '16, Orderly, Hdqrs. Co., 110th Inf.

KENNETH BELL, '16, 1st Lt., 28th Squadron, U. S. Air Force

JOSEPH RICHARD CALDWELL, '16, 2nd Lt., 67th Co., 5th Regt.,  
U. S. Marine Corps

WILLIAM FREED CALDWELL, '14 - 2nd Lt., Co. F, 110th Inf.

ENOCH ARDEN CALVERT, '18, Pvt. 1cl., Advance Medical  
Supply Det.

EDWARD CARY EICHELBERGER, '07, Q. M. 2cl., U. S. Naval  
Aviation

EDWARD MONROE ELDER, '17 - Co. B, 343d Supply Train

JAMES GALT ELDER, '14 - - 2nd Lt., Co. D, 47th Inf.

ALBERT ECCLES HAMILTON, '16 - Pvt., Co. F, 307th Inf.

FRED ARTHUR HANNAH, '07, S. S. U. 635, American Ambu-  
lance Unit

GEORGE FRANKLIN POFFENBERGER, '09, 1st Lt., Hdqrs. Co.  
111th Inf., 28th Div.

RODNEY WILLARD POLACK, '05 - 1st Lt., Co. D, 60th Inf.  
 EDWIN G. POWELL, '15 - Pvt., 315th M. G. Bn., 79th Div.  
 JOHN READING SCHLEY, '15 - 1st Lt., U. S. Aviation Corps  
 RALPH TALEOT, '16, 2nd Lt., U. S. Marine Corps, Naval Aviation



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

A SECTION OF THE MEUSE-ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY AT  
 ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTFAUCON, FRANCE  
 IN WHICH NINE MERCERSBURG ALUMNI LIE

The following men passed away while in training in the United States:

GEORGE ALEXANDER BAKER, '14, U. S. Engrs., Officers' Training School, Washington, D. C.

CLARENCE BOOTY BROOKS, '15, No record. Died 1918 in one of Army Training Camps

DONALD AUGUSTUS CARTER, '17, Member Massachusetts Homoeopathic Hospital Unit No. 39, U. S. Regular Army



JAMES LLOYD CHURCHELL, '11, Died at Pensacola, Fla., on  
August 13, 1918.

L. EARL EISENSMITH, '16, 1st Lt., Engr. Corps, U. S. A. Died  
October 31, 1918 at Fort Thomas, Ky.

CLARENCE JOHN GERKEN, '13, Chief Machinist, U. S. N. Re-  
serve Force, Submarine Patrol Service

JAMES JOSEPH GRAY, '15, Ensign, U. S. N. R. Force, Naval  
Flying Corps. Killed January 18, 1918, when  
seaplane fell into bay at Pensacola, Fla.

JOSEPH GUZMAN, '14, 2nd Lt., Inf. in Porto Rico Regiment,  
U. S. Army. Died October 17, 1918, at New Haven, Conn.

DAVID PAUL HARNISH, '18 - S. A. T. C. at F. & M. College

RAYMOND BROWN HARNISH, '19, U. S. Signal Corps, Radio  
Telegraphy, Lehigh University

HERBERT DENIG HARRY, '07, U. S. Army. Died at Fort  
Thomas, Ky.

HARRY FREDERICK JANSSEN, '10, U. S. Army at Camp Meade

THOMAS VICTOR KEEFE, 'c8, 2nd Lt., F. A., 1st Regt., F. A.  
R. D., Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.

ROSS PADGITT, '15 - - Captain, U. S. Ordnance Dept.

GRANDVILLE LEMOYNE SARGEANT, '17, Aviation Section, U. S.  
Signal Corps.

ALAN DALE SMITH, '07 - - - 2nd Lt., Canadian E. F.

LEA DANENHOWER WILLIAMS, '12, 2nd Lt., Cavalry, U. S. Army

WALTER SCOTT WOOD, '16, Member of Co. D, Pa. Engrs., 28th  
Div. Shell-shocked in France and returned  
to United States to recuperate;  
died in hospital in Buffalo, N. Y.

In the Mercersburg Chapel, memorials have been placed to the men who were in the service. A bronze memorial tablet on the wall of the narthex contains the names of all Mercersburg boys who made the supreme sacrifice. On this tablet may be found the following inscription:

They whom this tablet commemorates were numbered among those who at the call of country left all that was dear to



1890

WILBERT W. WHITE, JR.  
MERCERSBURG, 1907  
PORTRAIT BY WAYMAN ADAMS

1918

them, endured hardiess, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom—

*Let those who come after see to it  
That their names be not forgotten.*

The tablet is the gift of certain boys who were called up by the Headmaster on Commencement morning at the award of The Gold Cross.

In addition to the bronze memorial tablet there are five double lancet windows above the altar placed in memory of Mercersburg boys who died in battle. They are as follows:

1. FRANCIS ROBEINS MCCOOK, '10
2. JOHN READING SCHLEY, '15
3. GEORGE NATHAN ALTHOUSE, '11
4. WILBERT WALLACE WHITE, JR., '07
5. BENJAMIN HARTLEY HEWIT, '01

A clerestory window, the second from the front of the Chapel, at the right side, is given in memory of Harry Frederick Janssen, '10.

There are also two windows under the eastern transept gallery to the memory of George Franklin Poffenberger, '09, and Ralph Talbot, '16.

In addition to these, there is a large window above the gallery in the western transept entitled "Heroic Christianity." This window contains gold stars memorializing the fifty-six Mercersburg boys who died during the World War. It also contains the insignia worn by the alumni who served overseas as well as the twelve highest honors awarded to Mercersburg alumni. The boys of Mercersburg won ninety-three decorations and citations. These decorations include the following: 2 Congressional Medals of Honor; 14 Distinguished Service Crosses; 3 Distinguished Service Medals; 1 Distinguished Service Order (British); 1 British Military Cross; 3 Italian War Crosses; 1 Golden Eagle of Italy; 3 Medailles Militaires; 1 Belgian Medal of Valor; 16 Croix de Guerre, 4 Croix de Guerre, with palm; 4 Croix de Guerre, with star; 1 Navy Cross; 1 Navy Medal of Honor; and 1 Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

The highest and most decorated Mercersburg alumnus is Dr. Joel T. Boone, '09, Captain (MC) U. S. Navy, the Physician to The White House. Doctor Boone's service is an enviable one, from his appointment in the Medical Reserve Corps on March 17, 1914, to the present time. On July 1, 1914, he was assigned to



DR. JOEL T. BOONE, '09  
PRESIDENT OF THE MERCERSBURG ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
HIGHEST AND MOST DECORATED ALUMNUS



active duty and on April 22, 1915, he was appointed to the Medical Corps (regular) as an Assistant Surgeon with the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade). On March 7, 1918, he was appointed to Passed Assistant Surgeon with the rank of Lieutenant. He was promoted from September 1, 1918, to Lieutenant Commander (temporary), and from July 2, 1922, to Lieutenant Commander (permanent), and from March 6, 1929, he was promoted to Captain, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy. For his services in the American Expeditionary Forces he was recommended for the following United States decorations: Congressional Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Cross, U. S. Army, June 1918, at Belleau Wood; September 1918 at Thiaucourt, St. Mihiel offensive; October 1918 at Mont Blanc, Champagne Offensive. He received his French decorations for his work in July 1918 at Vierzy, Soissons Offensive, and for his services in October 1918 at Mont Blanc, Champagne Offensive. Doctor Boone's awards are as follows: Congressional Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross; Croix de Guerre, with palm, for acts cited in July; Croix de Guerre, with palm, for acts cited in October; Italian War Cross; French Fourragere in colors of Croix de Guerre; cited in Divisional Orders No. 44, 2nd Division; cited in Divisional Orders No. 88, 2nd Division (three times); cited in General Orders of the Army by General Pershing. He served on the battle front constantly from March, 1918, until the Armistice and went into Germany with the Army of Occupation.

This most decorated alumnus was in the following battles: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, Saint Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and the Defensive Sector. He was wounded at Belleau Wood and gassed at Mont Blanc.

Mercersburg's record of decorations shows the following:

Number decorated .....	37
Others cited .....	9
Others receiving divisional citation .....	7
	—
Total decorated or cited .....	53
Number decorations .....	54
Number citations .....	31
Number divisional citations .....	8
	—
Total number decorations and citations .....	93



1894

GEORGE NATHAN ALTHOUSE  
MERCERSBURG, 1911  
PORTRAIT BY EMIL POLLAK OTTENDORFF

1918

The school was represented in the following divisions which served overseas, the insignia of which appear in the "Heroic Christianity" window in the Chapel: 1st, 2nd, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83d, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93d.

In addition, the following divisions which remained in the United States also contained Mercersburg men: 15th, 19th, 20th, 61st. These divisions did not have insignia.

Among the Mercersburg alumni there are five families from each of whom three sons went into the service,—the Laytons, the Prescotts, the Schiesswohls, the Stuarts, and the Vardens.

From the Layton family of Georgetown, Delaware, went Halstead Patterson Layton, '10, who served as First Lieutenant, 59th Delaware Pioneer Infantry, at Camp Dix, and later served overseas; John Lawrence Layton, '12, was First Lieutenant, F. R. Escadrille 77, and was brought down on July 18, 1918, in the fighting at Pulchy le Chateau, twenty miles north of Chateau-Thierry; Landreth Lee Layton, Jr., '07, served as Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. He was wounded on September 30, and October 30, 1918, while in action.

From the Prescott family of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, went Curry Stimson Prescott, '07, Lieutenant of the U. S. N. R. F., who served on the *U. S. S. Harvard* for a time, then as Assistant U. S. Naval Port Officer at St. Nazaire, France, and later on the *U. S. S. Whipple*, on which ship the Rev. Clement W. Dechant, '14, of Philadelphia also served; Fred Holgate Prescott, '10, also served in the U. S. N. R. F. as an Ensign; James Clinton Prescott, '11, was in that same service, the U. S. N. R. F., and served as Chief Machinist Mate.

From the Schiesswohl family of Chicago, Illinois, went Harold John Schiesswohl, '18, who served in the S. A. T. C.; Philip George Schiesswohl, '11, served as Second Lieutenant in the 86th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces; Ralph Louis Schiesswohl, '12, was Captain in the 2nd Division, U. S. Marine Corps, and was wounded on the eleventh day in the 17-day battle of Belleau Wood. He later took part in the St. Mihiel and the Mont Blanc Ridge battles. He had the honor of being made Captain on the field of battle at 23 years of age and was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. After the Armistice he served in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

The Stuart family of Carlisle, Pa., also sent three sons into the service. John Bruce Stuart, '06, was Captain Adjutant, 1st Battalion, 30th Engineers (Gas and Flame Regiment), in the American Expeditionary Forces. Before going overseas he had served at the



U. S. border in Arizona, entering the American Expeditionary Forces early in 1918; Samuel Donaldson Stuart, '02, was Captain of the Ordnance Department of the U. S. Army; Walter Searight Stuart, '08, was a member of Balloon Co. C, U. S. Signal Corps, of the American Expeditionary Forces.

A family in the town of Mercersburg sent four sons, three of whom are Mercersburg alumni, into the Army. Frank Wingert Varden, '10, was First Lieutenant of Field Artillery; James Corum Varden, '15, served as Corporal of Company A, 1st United States Army Headquarters Regiment, of the American Expeditionary



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

RUINS OF CHURCH AT MONTEFAUCON, FRANCE  
1930

Forces, and after the Armistice was transferred to General Headquarters at Chaumont, France; Dr. Robert Bentley Varden, '07, served in the Dental Corps of the U. S. Army in this country; and in addition to these alumni members of the Varden family, Duffield W. Varden, another brother, received the French Croix de Guerre for his services in the war.

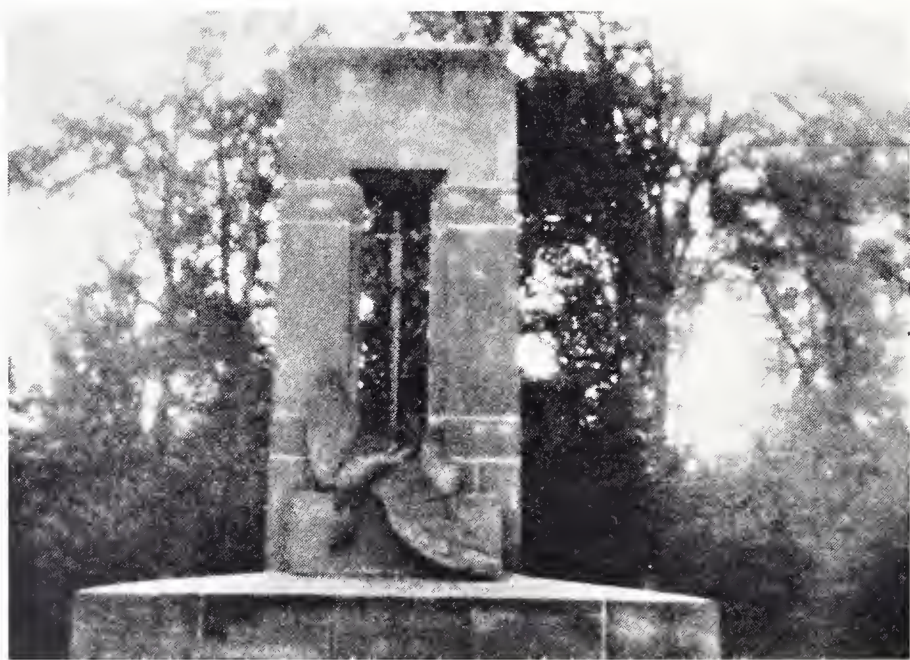
I quote from a personal letter from General Pershing to the writer of this paper with respect to the record made by Mercers-



1897

RALPH TALBOT  
MERCERSBURG, 1916  
PORTRAIT BY EDMUND C. TARBELL

1918



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

THE ARMISTICE MONUMENT, ERECTED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT  
AT ENTRANCE TO THE PARK OF THE FOREST OF COMPIEGNE



burg Academy alumni in the World War: "May I also extend to the Academy my heartiest congratulations on its splendid record. It is indeed one to be proud of."

Unfortunately, the records of the various Legion posts in the County are not very complete, and it is impossible to give the many heroic deeds and detailed service of these men. The entire paper, while not specifically stating the names of many Mercersburg Academy and Franklin County heroes, refers in the main to our own gallant soldiers.

While this County has an enviable record, rare deeds of valor have not been recorded properly; the conditions under which our men made the supreme sacrifice have never been told; the individual record with the personal side of the soldier's life has never been made available. To compile such a history would require a great deal of time and work. To complete such a history would give to its author great honor in the County, for such a history would be invaluable to future generations.

Franklin County sent 1,833 men into the service; 29 were killed in battle; 10 died of wounds, 25 died of disease; and 2 of other causes—a total of 66 men, who gave their lives from this County.

According to present records, the list of Franklin County men who are buried in Europe is as follows:

Alfred Jones, Metal, Pvt., Co. F, 314 Inf., Meuse-Argonne; Earl F. Lecrone, Greencastle, Sgt., Co. B, 316 Inf., Meuse-Argonne; Charles Nitterhouse, Chambersburg, Cpl., Co. C, 112 Inf., Aisne-Marne; James G. Nixon, Chambersburg, 1st Lieut., Co. K, 353 Inf., St. Mihiel; Walter E. Peiffer, Chambersburg, Cpl., Co. K, 307 Inf., Meuse-Argonne; Frank E. Reilly, Hellertown, Pvt., Co. B, 149 M. G. Btn., Oise-Aisne; David E. Ryder, Lemasters, Pvt., 81st Co., Oise-Aisne; Clyde Strausner, Waynesboro, Pvt., Co. B, 109 M. G. Btn., Meuse-Argonne.

Another soldier who was killed in action in France and who lies there is Elmer H. Brechbill, whose home was in the St. Thomas district. All other bodies of the men from this district who died in France were returned to this country for re-burial.

A number of honors were won by Franklin County men. The Croix de Guerre, awarded by the French Government, was given to three men from Mercersburg, all of whom were in the ambulance service. These men are: Percy O. Fendrick, of the class of 1911 of the Academy; James W. Witherspoon, of the class of 1912 of the Academy; and Duffield W. Varden.

Waynesboro claims the honor of having the most decorated man in the County. Harold Rumberger received the United States Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, and the Italian War Cross, the only man in Franklin County to receive three medals.



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

THE GERMAN TANK LEFT ON THE ROAD EAST OF REIMS



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

A SHELL HOLE IN THE CATHEDRAL AT SOISSONS  
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CATHEDRAL WAS COMPLETED IN 1931



Among the men whose homes were in Mercersburg or vicinity who were killed in the service was George Franklin Poffenberger, of the class of 1909 of the Academy. Poffenberger served as First Lieutenant with the Headquarters Company of the 111th Infantry, 28th Division. Some historical records of the County state that only one officer from Franklin County was killed in the service, that being Second Lieutenant Philip E. Kriechbaum of Chambersburg, who served in the 112th Regiment, National Guard, and who was killed in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Poffenberger, while scouting for a German machine-gun nest, was wounded in the knee. With him was his sergeant who also was badly wounded. This lieutenant and his sergeant lay wounded when the stretcher-bearers came to take back those who could not help themselves. Because of his position as Commanding Officer of this group of men, Poffenberger would have been taken back first. Instead, he insisted that the sergeant be taken for first-aid treatment and he lay on the ground all through the night and the following day. Early on the second night the stretcher-bearers were able to go to his assistance, took him back to the first-aid station, and then to the hospital where he died shortly afterwards. His service is one which demands respect and special recording. A very beautiful window is placed to his memory in the eastern transept of the Mercersburg Academy Chapel. From letters which have been received and from personal conversation with those who served with Lieutenant Poffenberger, this officer never allowed his men to do any service which he himself would not do. He was one of the most popular officers in the American Expeditionary Forces and everyone in the Cumberland Valley should feel proud of the service he gave to his country. He could have been saved no doubt if he had permitted himself to be taken first to the aid station.

In addition to Sergeant Lechrone of Greencastle, whose body lies in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, this town has a splendid record. Winfield Carey of Co. C, 112th Infantry, according to reports, was wounded along the Ourcq River. Witnesses claim that his body fell into the river and was never seen again. No doubt he is one of those soldiers lying below a stone marked "Unknown." Sergeant Frank L. Carbaugh of Greencastle, after whom the Legion Post in that town is named, was wounded at Chatcau-Thierry. He was compelled to lie in the open throughout the night with very serious wounds in his leg. He succumbed after the fourth operation, but while in the hospital he wrote the poem entitled:

#### THE FIELDS OF THE MARNE

The fields of the Marne are growing green,  
The river murmurs on and on;  
No more the hail of mitrailleuse,  
The cannon from the hills are gone.



MEMORIAL CHURCH AT CHATEAU-THIERRY, FRANCE  
THE MERCERSBURG MEMORIAL BELL HANGS IN THIS TOWER  
A MEMORIAL PEW TO EDWARD H. BAIR, JR., '16, AND THE ALTAR IN  
MEMORY OF GEORGE NATHAN ALTHOUSE, '11, HAVE BEEN  
PLACED IN THIS CHURCH

The herder leads the sheep afield,  
Where grasses grow o'er broken blade,  
And toil-worn women till the soil  
O'er human mold in sunny glade.

The splintered shell and bayonet  
Are lost in crumbling village wall;  
No sniper scans the rim of hills,  
No sentry hears the night bird's call.

From blood-wet soil and sunken trench,  
The flowers bloom in summer light,  
And farther down the vale beyond  
The peasant smiles are sad, yet bright.

The wounded Marne is growing green,  
The gash of Hun no longer smarts,  
Democracy is born again,  
But what about the wounded hearts?

An interesting incident concerning two Franklin County men might be noted. Leon Kauffman and Rhodney P. Heefner (the writer's brother) were the only Franklin County men who were confined to the prison camp known as Farm No. 2, at Chellas, France, over which the notorious officer, "Hardboiled" Smith, reigned. These two men had been wounded and gassed. They were sent back from the area of action to a first-aid station and from there to Paris to the hospital. After being dismissed from the hospital, instead of returning to their organizations, both men overstayed their time in the French capital by twelve hours. They were picked up by the military police and turned over to Smith. History credits Smith with being the most hated man in the A. E. F., his cruelty to the American prisoners in camp being of the worst sort. His atrocities were numerous. Many of these prisoners testified at Smith's trial in Washington after his return to the United States and this officer was sent to prison for his cruelty. Men were beaten to death by other men forced by Smith to do this type of duty. The Government in 1919 notified all prisoners of whom they had any record either to come to Washington to testify against Smith or to be in readiness to testify. His brutality and un-American-like attitude toward his fellows seem to be the outstanding record of horrible treatment to Americans. Before being taken to the prison camp these men were tried before a group of officers in a small building in the Rue St. Anne in Paris. The decrees coming from those men in that little building created almost as much stir among the service men as a condemnation to the guillotine. Out of curiosity, during the past summer I went to the Rue St. Anne, looked at the building from



WINDOW IN EASTERN TRANSEPT IN MEMORY OF RALPH TALBOT  
MERCERSBURG, 1916



the outside, and recalled many stories of the tribunal which sat in that building eleven years previously and wondered just what benefit these men derived from their callousness at a time when every American overseas needed encouragement rather than condemnation. On account of their judgment, many parents were informed by the War Department that their sons were lost in action. Instead, they were incarcerated in prison camps. If the stories of these two men could be recorded in detail, their evidence would prove that not all of the horrors of war came from machine guns and cannon.

Immediately following certain battles many small and unpretentious memorials were built to commemorate important engagements. By official orders of the A. E. F., 64 of these battle monuments were erected. They are disintegrating gradually and the United States Government disclaims any responsibility for them. When a unit captured any particular area the men of this unit immediately built a monument, many of which could not remain for years without considerable care. French individuals all over the battle area took upon themselves the care of these monuments. Many times thin strips of steel taken from the front of guns were used for tablets, the boys themselves hammering into this steel or tin-plate the inscription they thought appropriate. Frenchmen after the war kept these plates polished and planted flowers about the monuments. When the present generation of French are no longer living, these markers which carry a great deal of sentiment to the divisions or smaller units who were interested in building them will no doubt pass away, unless an appropriation is made by the United States Government to care for them. Many of the markers were built under fire and, of course, were not constructed with the assumption that they would remain for a period of years. Officers and men of many such divisions criticize the Government for not caring for these monuments; they feel that there is more sentiment in them than in any elaborate monument that can be placed anywhere.

The American Battle Monuments Commission was created by an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1923, the Chairman of this Commission being General Pershing. Senator Reed of Pennsylvania also is a member of the Commission composed of eight men. The entire Commission sailed from New York on June 14, 1924, for the purpose of inspecting the American cemeteries and battlefields, and completed the work about a month later. They visited each of the eight cemeteries to obtain first-hand knowledge of their condition. According to the official report of the commission, out of the 78,734 members of the A. E. F., who gave their lives, 46,284 bodies were returned to the United States from Europe and there remain, according to the latest report in 1927, 30,592 bodies in American military cemeteries in Europe, 128 soldiers buried in

Europe outside of these government cemeteries, and 605 bodies sent to other countries. Only 1,125, or less than one-tenth per cent of the dead, remain unidentified.

All of the American cemeteries are uniform in design. I shall describe as far as possible the cemetery officially called the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, situated near Romagne, about twenty miles northwest of Verdun. It should be visited by each American who goes to Europe. The soldiers who rest there came from almost every combat division of the American Expeditionary Forces, most of whom gave their lives in the Meuse-Argonne operation, the greatest battle in American history and one of the most decisive offensives of the war. Before the bodies had been placed permanently in these cemeteries, narrow trenches were dug, cement was poured into these trenches, and each white cross was set in the cement. This insures permanent position of the marker and each row of crosses is in exact line. On each cross is given the name and outfit of the deceased, the name of the state from which he came, and the date of his death. On the unknown markers is carved the following: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." The cemeteries are cared for by the War Department in the same manner as military cemeteries in the United States.

The Commission decided to erect memorial chapels of a non-denominational character in each cemetery. The purpose of these chapels is to provide attractive buildings to give a sheltered place for those who wish to meditate and pray. The chapels are of the Romanesque style of architecture in almost every cemetery. Occasionally a trend to French architecture is used. By May 30, 1933, it is hoped that all the chapels shall have been completed. The total cost of these eight chapels amounts to approximately one million dollars.

I shall describe a number of the larger monuments. There is a monument in the park of the Place des Etats-Unis which contains the name of A. Courtney Campbell, Jr., '11, of Mercersburg. The inscriptions on this monument by Alan Seeger are as follows:

Hail, brothers, and farewell  
You are twice blest brave hearts  
Double your glory is who perished thus  
For you have died for France and vindicated us  
—*Alan Seeger.*

Yet sought they neither recompense nor praise  
Nor to be mentioned in another breath  
Than their blue coated comrades whose great days  
It was their pride to share—ay, share even to the death  
—*Alan Seeger.*

The monument is by Jean Boucher, and was dedicated on July 4, 1923.

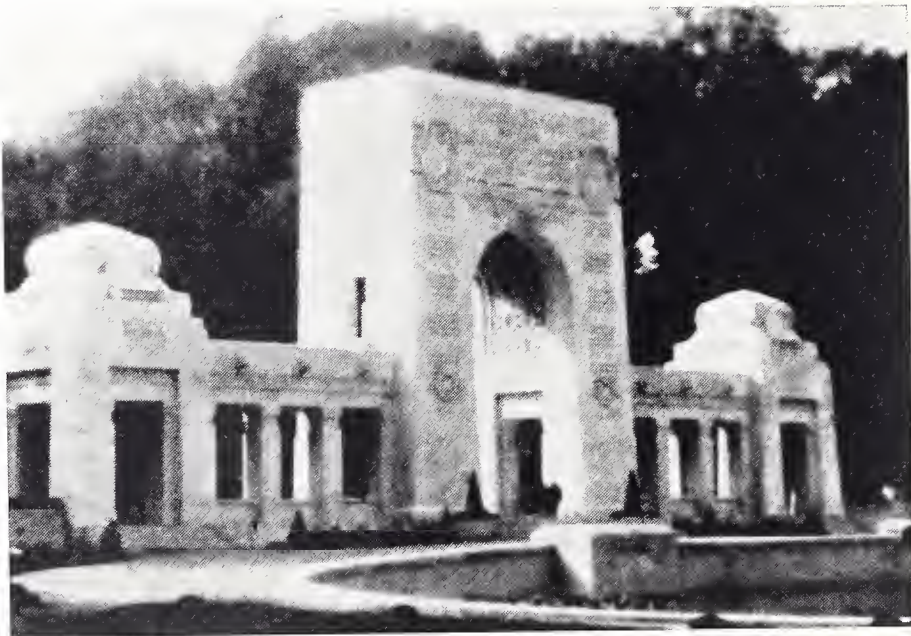
The simple tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe is most impressive, with its eternal light.

The Lafayette Escadrille monument at St. Cloud outside of Paris contains fifty bodies of that organization. It was my privilege to go below this monument to see the separate tombs of the flyers. On November 4 of last year in a very solemn ceremony the body of the last flyer was placed in its crypt there. More than fifty members of the Escadrille lost their lives but bodies of others were either never recovered or were buried in America in accordance with the wishes of their families. Immediately following the last interment in this mausoleum, the crypt was sealed and cannot again be visited. It is no doubt the most beautiful French monument.

Our own Courtney Campbell's name appears on one side of this monument and his body lies beneath. The inscription at the top of the monument is: "In memory of the heroes of the Escadrille Lafayette who died in defense of life and liberty." This inscription appears in French on one side and in English on the other. It was dedicated "to the Heralds of the American Conscience and The Pioneers of Her Mighty Effort in the World War, THE ESCADRILLE LAFAYETTE, an Aviation Corps Composed of American Volunteers Officially Received as a Unit into the Army of France, April 20, 1916." It is worth a trip from Paris to see this gorgeous piece of work.

I visited Meaux, 43 kilometers from Paris, the nearest spot to that city reached by the Germans. One of the most beautiful British monuments is at la Ferte-sous-Jouarre, where two bridges were destroyed in 1914 and where the Second American Division detained and the First American Corps made its headquarters in June 1918. The monument is in honor of 3,888 British men whose graves are unknown.

Belleau Wood, which was made a memorial park by an Act of Congress in 1923, brings to mind the work done by the Second American Division, the Fourth Marine Brigade, and a number of infantry and artillery regiments, along with machine gun battalions and engineers. The strength of the Second Division at that time was 27,000 officers and men. The Marines did wonderful work at Belleau Wood. The 26th, or Yankee Division, relieved the Second Division. After continuous fighting for twenty-one days the enemy was driven out by the Fourth Marine Brigade on June 25, 1918. The Belleau Wood is cared for by the United States. Part of the Wood remains as it appeared immediately after the fighting. A small building as a rest room has been placed near the center of the Wood and in the center stands a flag-pole carrying the American flag. One may see there machine



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MONUMENT AT SAINT CLOUD, FRANCE



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

A. COURTNEY CAMPBELL, '11 NAME (CAMPBELL, A. C.) ON  
LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MONUMENT



guns left by both sides, the trenches partially filled by rains, and there are several very large guns at different locations. Warnings appear on signs advising travelers not to pick up anything lying about the ground. The Aisne-Marne Cemetery is located at Belleau.

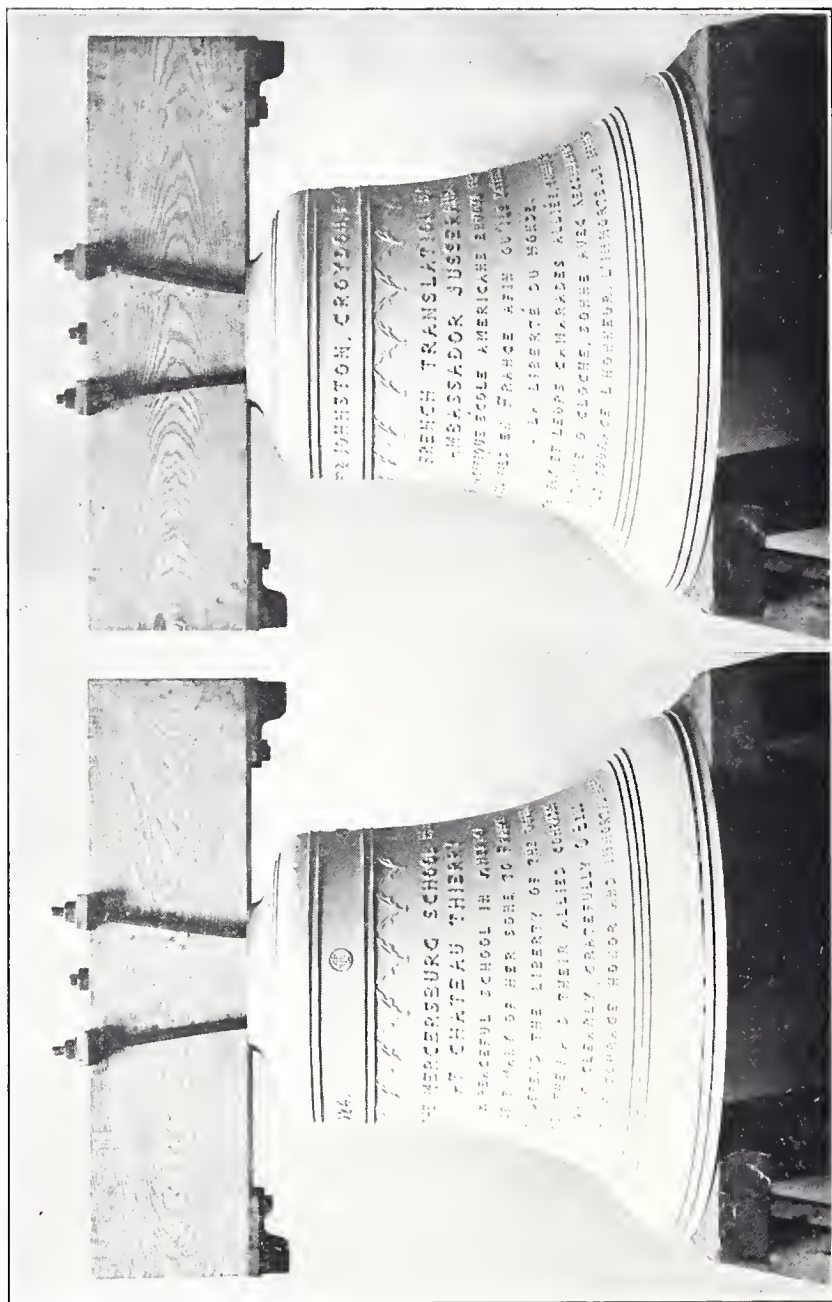
At Chateau-Thierry the Third American Division Monument stands. It is an imposing structure. There is a museum at this place and a war memorial in the form of a Community House of Friendliness. This Community House was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a memorial to all the American soldiers who gave their lives in France. The property is located only a stone's throw from the famous bridge which was blown up on the day after the arrival of the Third Division of the American Army, to prevent the enemy crossing the Marne at that place. It had been used for hotel purposes for nearly 150 years and had witnessed a number of enemy invasions.

The question was asked in the beginning. "How can we be of greatest help to Chateau-Thierry and France?" A local physician advised: "The best service that can possibly be rendered is in helping us to care for the babies and youth of France who must now take the places of 1,700,000 who have been killed in the war." There is a day nursery for babies three months to two years of age, educational classes are held, troops of Boy and Girl Scouts are organized and there is a library. It is financed by special gifts from those who appreciate this work. *The Boston Transcript* in a lengthy article several years ago stated that it is America's greatest war memorial. It was in this house that I saw a photograph of Edward H. Bair, Jr., Mercersburg, 1916, formerly of Greensburg, Pa. There is also a memorial pew in the church at Chateau-Thierry placed to the memory of this alumnus.

At a farewell dinner given in his honor in Washington, D. C., on the evening of January 10, 1925, Ambassador Jules Jusserand said: "There is at Chateau-Thierry, that place famous in the annals of American participation in the last war, a bell presented to the city by the pupils of The Mercersburg School, Pennsylvania. Few bells in France speak English but that one does, and in the words devised for it by that warm-hearted diplomat and poet, Henry van Dyke, it says:

#### THE MERCERSBURG SCHOOL BELL AT CHATEAU-THIERRY

A peaceful school in America  
sent many of her sons to France  
to defend the liberty of the world  
For them and their allied comrades  
Ring clearly gratefully O Bell  
Ring of courage honor and immortal hope."



MERCERSBURG ACADEMY MEMORIAL BELL AT CHATEAU-THIERRY

The French translation is:

*Une pacifique école américaine envoya beaucoup de ses fils en France afin qu'ils défendissent la liberté du monde.*

*Pour eux et leurs camarades alliés, sonne d'une voix claire o cloche, sonne avec reconnaissance;*

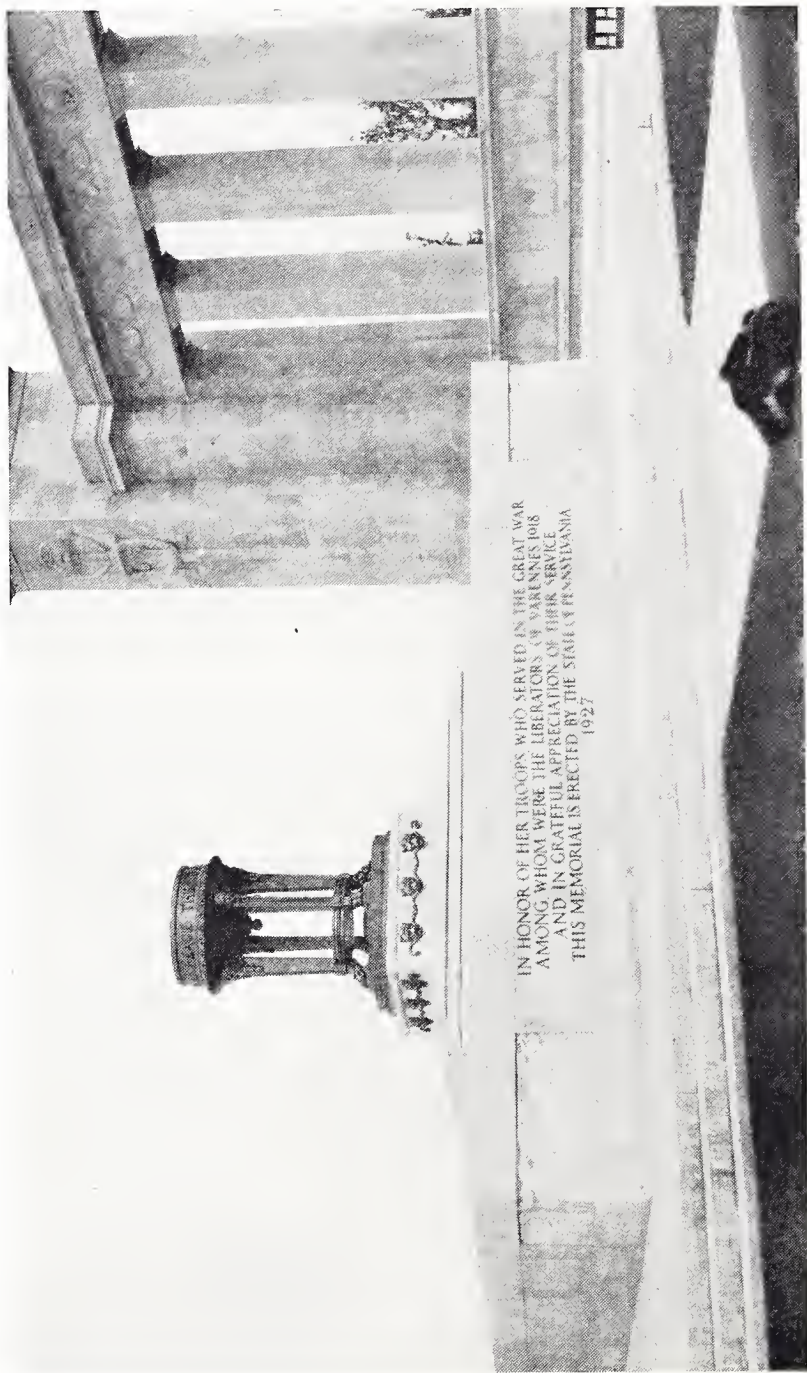
*Sonne le courage, l'honneur, l'immortelle espérance.*

The bell was made by the noted bell manufacturers, Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, England, the makers of the Mercersburg carillon. It weighs 560 pounds and is twenty-nine inches in diameter. The French translation was made by Ambassador Jusserand for the Academy.

In addition to the memorial pew to Edward H. Bair, '16, there is the altar in memory of George Nathan Althouse, '11, whose portrait was unveiled at the Academy in June, 1923. These memorials are appropriately marked with brass plates. Ambassador Jusserand ended his talk at the farewell dinner by "To the words of the bell I shall ceaselessly, so long as I live, answer 'Amen'."

It is impossible to describe all of the cemeteries and places visited. The French and English cemeteries are more elaborate than the American, which are the most dignified of all. The English cemeteries are filled with flowers, all of the graves being almost entirely covered with rambling roses. In one cemetery, Cemetery de Bligny, both French and German soldiers are buried, the white crosses marking the French and the black crosses the German. In this cemetery also are 2,506 unknown buried in one plot in the center of the cemetery. One can drive only a few miles until he passes the resting places of thousands of soldiers and it is easily understood that the records show that millions of lives were lost.

At Verdun, which had been partly destroyed during the war, I was amazed to see the city almost entirely restored. From Fort de Vaux and Fort Douaumont, taken by Germans who wore French uniforms, one could see hundreds of acres of land showing shell-holes and barbed wire entanglements. A few miles from the fort has been erected the Ossuaire de Douaumont, where the bones of unknown French soldiers are buried and in front of which the remains of 12,000 French known lie. The building is erected to the memory of the 400,000 French soldiers who fell on the Verdun battlefield. The Ossuaire will contain 46 graves corresponding with the sectors and sub-sectors of the battlefield and it is intended to collect the anonymous remains of more than 300,000 men. Already eight and one-half millions of francs have been spent and the subscription reaches nearly ten millions. It is hoped to complete the work in June, 1931. This is a most impressive building. Absolute silence is required to enter and on the separate crypts are carved the names of the battlefields from which parts of bodies



—Photograph, Courtesy of Captain George H. Stewart, Jr., '08

## THE PENNSYLVANIA MONUMENT AT VARENNES



have been gathered. There are more than 500 coffins containing such remains. A Roman Catholic chapel stands behind the portico. There are beautiful stained-glass windows in this chapel as well as in the Ossuaire. It is an immense shrine.

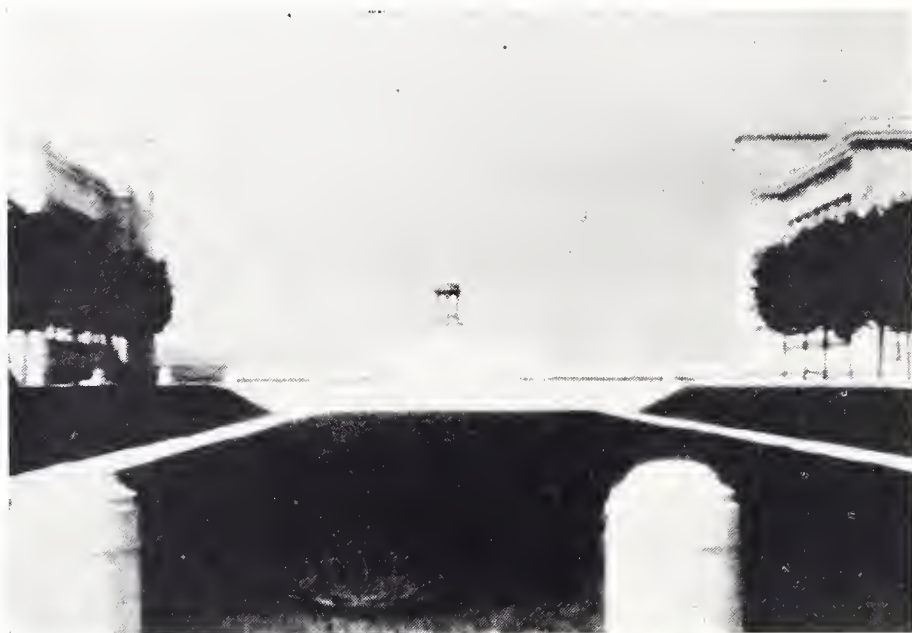
One of the interesting sights for any traveler to see is the historic Bayonet Trench, where one can count thirty-eight bayonets standing upright. During the war the men holding this line were killed by shells. Their bodies were left remaining where they lie and the bayonets protrude from the ground. An American benefactor has built a large cement covering over the trench and this trench is one of the saddest sights one can see on the battlefield.

I could not resist a visit to Montfaucon. While standing there, an 80-year-old woman partially blind, came for alms. In French she told us that she had lost everything she had, including three sons and her husband. On the bronze tablet in front of the site of the chateau at Montfaucon may be found the following: "Montfaucon after having been held four years by German forces, the town and this chateau were captured by the 313th Infantry, 157th Brigade, 79th Division, U. S. A., September 27, 1918." There had been some controversy in connection with the credit of winning Montfaucon. The 37th, 29th, 79th, 91st and other divisions took part in this battle. The 29th and 91st especially had claimed credit for winning Montfaucon. Official records, however, give credit to the 79th Division, composed of many men from our County and School.

After visiting the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, partially described before, I went to Varennes in order to see the Pennsylvania Monument. This monument is the most beautiful state monument on the battlefields. Three hundred and ninety-six thousand sons of Pennsylvania joined the forces, all returning except 11,298 men. Pennsylvania in 1921 appointed a Commission to investigate the battlefields of France and Belgium and to select those best suited for monuments. On this Commission were two Mercersburg alumni, Major Timothy O. Van Alen, '04, of Harrisburg, and Captain George H. Stewart, Jr., '08, of Shippensburg. By many this monument is considered one of the world's outstanding war memorials. It is dedicated to all Pennsylvanians who served in the war and is erected on the Place Vert which has been turned into a beautiful park by the Pennsylvania Monuments Commission. At one end of the park there is a splendid view in the direction of the advance of the 28th Division toward Apremont. At this end of the park there is a square plaza flanked by two very dignified colonnades. In the center of the plaza is an altar typical of sacrifice. On the altar reposes a large bronze urn with the inscription, "The right is more precious than peace," words taken from President Wilson's proclamation declaring war on Germany. On the monument is the following inscription: "In honor of her troops who served in the Great War, among whom were the liber-

ators of Varennes, 1918, and in grateful appreciation of their service this memorial is erected by the State of Pennsylvania, 1927." The dedication of this memorial was held on Memorial Day, 1928.

There are two other memorials to Pennsylvanians in France, one a bridge, commemorating the service of the 28th Division, over the Vesle River between Fismes and Fismettes, which had been completely destroyed. It is a beautiful stone and concrete structure with carved stone pylons forming a gateway to the city. These bear respectively in English and French the following inscription: "This bridge has been erected by the State of Penn-



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

#### PENNSYLVANIA MEMORIAL AT SURESNES, FRANCE

sylvania as a tribute to the heroic service and notable achievement of the 28th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, 1927." There is also a Pennsylvania monument at Nantillois, near Montfaucon.

At Montfaucon there is in course of construction by the United States Government what will be one of the finest monuments and which will commemorate the Meuse-Argonne operation, the greatest battle in American history. The town itself was completely destroyed and the ruins are now preserved by the French Government which granted the United States permission to erect the monument. The site is on top of the hill near the main road which is west of the ruins of the church. The construction work

has been started and a high fence has been placed around the site which prevents entering. I made a visit to the monument of the 69th French Division north of Verdun on le Mort Homme (Dead Man's Hill), the motto used by this division being, "They shall not pass," which appears in French on the monument. From the top of the hill may be seen acres of battle-scarred land.

In addition, the services of the navy will be commemorated by six memorials erected in Europe.

Thucydides at the close of the first year of the Peloponnesian War placed in the mouth of Pericles, "For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men; not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions in their own country, but in foreign lands there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men." These sentiments are felt 2,300 years after they were uttered for it seems that the whole earth is filled with memorials to our boys.

A hurried trip through Soissons to the Forest of Compiègne where the Armistice took place brought the battlefield trip to a close. In this park, sheltered, stands the car in which the Armistice was signed. In the car the table used by these men may be seen and the places where each sat is designated by a card on which his name appears. In the center of the Forest in French appears the following: "Here, the 11 of November, 1918, succumbed the criminal pride of the German Empire, vanquished by the free nations which it tried to enslave." On the Armistice monument may be found the following: "11 November, 1918, to the heroic soldiers of France, defenders of their country, and to the glorious liberators of the Alsace and Lorraine."

For information, I give the following statistics prepared by the Operations Section of the General Staff at Chaumont, General Headquarters, which give the names of the three important battles in which Americans took part, and the number of men participating in each. I name them in order of importance, all of which will be commemorated by monuments:

Meuse-Argonne Offensive, 1,200,000 participants—monument at Montfaucon; St. Mihiel Offensive, 550,000 participants—monument at Montsec; Aisne-Marne Offensive, 270,000 participants—monument at Courteau, west of Chateau-Thierry.

From April, 1917, to May, 1918, the war cost the United States more than a million dollars an hour. At the time of the Armistice the cost was two millions an hour. The total expenditure of twenty-two billions was practically the cost of running the United States Government from 1791 to 1914. When one knows that the total mobilized forces of the Allies during the war equaled 42,188,810, while those of the Central Powers equaled 22,850,000, a grand total of 65,038,810, and that more than eight millions lost their lives in the war, he realizes that the equivalent of a great nation has



WINDOW IN EASTERN TRANSEPT OF THE ACADEMY CHAPEL IN MEMORY OF  
GEORGE FRANKLIN POFFENBERGER  
MERCERSBURG, 1909



been wiped out of existence. After this visit to the battlefields, one must realize that the real cost of war is the loss and the wrecking of human life and the question arises, "What man can point out any gain achieved by all the waste and slaughter?"

After serving for more than a year in the Army, most of which time was spent overseas; after active service in the American Legion; after having officiated for the American Legion at the funeral services for ten bodies returned for interment in American cemeteries, I am of the opinion that parades of uniformed men create in young people the idea that war means only the marching with flag and the beating of drum. I should rather



—Photograph by Daniel Heefner

FOREST OF COMPIEGNE WHERE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED  
BUILDING IN WHICH ARMISTICE CAR STANDS

see military organizations teach respect and confidence than teach war or glorify it in any manner. Recently, I witnessed a parade in a not-far-distant town. As far as I could see before me among the hundreds of people, only one other person removed his hat when the Stars and Stripes passed. At the parade in 1921 at Arlington Cemetery hundreds of men did not respect the President of the United States or the flag by removing their hats when they passed. I should like to see Armistice Day made sacred throughout the world, not a day to glorify war by marching or a day for banqueting, but a day to honor those who gave their lives for the sake of their country.

Why should we parade after such a calamity? The parade which, if possible, should be brought into evidence is the hospitals, the sanitoriums, the wards of insane ex-service men, the blind, the crippled, all of the diseases of war, the broken homes, and finally the white crosses. The result of such a parade would spell Patriotism and not vanity. Each one of us would try to protect the other from such a dreadful existence if war were portrayed as it really is.

In writing of "perpetuating the men whose only record is based on the number of human lives they have snuffed out," an international figure wrote: "Our hope to put peace into the minds of the people instead of war depends almost entirely upon the thoughts that we put into the minds of our young people. Why not perpetuate the idea of peace? Isn't that what your boys who fell in the war fought for? They didn't fight to glorify General Foch, General Haig or General Pershing." It is up to those who have had the experience not to allow an opportunity to pass to be honest with those who have not had that experience.

It was my privilege to meet a number of Gold Star mothers in the different cemeteries, approximately 3,600 of whom visited Europe during the past summer. Three thousand more will go this year and continue through the summers of 1932 and 1933. According to the report of Acting Secretary of War Hurley on December 6, 1929, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, he said:

On November 15, 1929, the investigation shows the following results:

Total number of mothers and widows entitled to make the pilgrimage, 11,440.

Number of such mothers and widows who desire to make the pilgrimage, 6,730.

Probable cost of the pilgrimages to be made, \$5,653,200.

The average cost per person was estimated at \$840.

Each mother with whom I spoke expressed her appreciation of this pilgrimage and there was little sentimental demonstration as far as I could see. Many of these mothers also expressed their pleasure in seeing just how well kept these cemeteries have been; the hope that America would care for those who might be called our living dead, those who are crippled and blind; the desire that all ex-service men would do everything possible to prevent another war which would bring so much sadness to the world. The American monuments do not make one feel that he wishes to be memorialized but they impress one that the sacrifice was sane and dignified.

Marietta Minnigerode Andrews, who has published four or five very human, entertaining and historical volumes, only a few years

ago wrote the following concerning the return of those men who served overseas:

"No mother waiting at any American seaport for the arrival of a transport could adequately report her emotions, nor would any reader care to have her attempt it. It was the hour of thankfulness to God, of sympathy for others, of welcome to one's own. The boys who had enlisted as young Crusaders to right the wrongs of humanity, were coming back saddened and disillusioned, immemorially aged, visibly and invisibly wounded, but notwithstanding the iron that had entered the soul, proud, yes, and triumphant.

"They had been crowded like cattle into transports; damned and scolded by impertinent non-coms; blood, mud, cold, hunger, lice, at the front, had been at times their portion. Out of the weariness and nightmare they were coming, hundreds of thousands strong, home. Through action and reaction, singing, cursing, from unnatural apathy to super-human effort; at one time, lusting for blood like beasts; at another, mere bits of mechanism, automatically obedient to the will-power of others; again, they had been destroying angels, instantaneous, compassionate, capable of unthought-of self-abnegation. Maddened by nerve-racking noises, harsh and cruel; sickened by ugly sights; poisoned by vile gases; shockingly merry in the shadow of death; callous to sufferings, indifferent to danger; destined to bear to the grave mutilations of the body and scars of the soul; to hate through all their days the glowing poppies nodding in the sunlight and the loveliness of the moon, because her heavenly illumination had been of service to the Boche upon those cruel nights."

She concludes her volume with this poem:

"Do you remember the dark months you held the sector at  
Mametz,—

The nights you watched and wired and dug and piled sandbags  
on parapets?

Do you remember the rats; and the stench

Of corpses rotting in front of the front-line trench,—

And dawn coming, dirty-white, and chill with a hopeless rain?

Do you ever stop and ask, 'Is it all going to happen again?'

Do you remember that hour of din before the attack,—

And the anger, the blind compassion that seized and shook you  
then

As you peered at the doomed and haggard faces of your men?

Do you remember the stretcher-cases lurching back

With dying eyes and lolling heads,—those ashen-gray

Masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?

Have you forgotten yet? . . .

Look up, and swear by the green of the Spring that you'll never  
forget.

—*Siegfried Sassoon.*"

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